

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Westlake Avenue North – Draft Parking Management Plan

Why is a parking management plan necessary?

Parking is an important asset that must be properly managed to support City economic and transportation goals. These goals include ensuring customer access to businesses and reducing drive-alone trips. Parking in most of the Westlake Avenue North corridor is fully used for more than four hours each day.

What are my parking options under the proposed plan?

All current users of the Westlake Avenue North parking areas will continue to be able to park; however, parking controls (such as paying to park or displaying a residential parking permit) will determine how drivers use spaces in particular areas. See table for more information.

Why is paid parking part of the proposed management plan?

Data show existing unrestricted parking and time-limit signs are not adequate. Because free parking is the major determinant in choosing to travel by automobile, paid parking is an effective tool to influence travel mode choice. If parking controls were placed only in the southern half of the corridor, where parking is more heavily used, demand would shift to free areas in the north.

What is performance-based pricing?

Performance-based pricing is an innovative parking management approach that is being used for the first time along the Westlake corridor. It relies on the hourly price of parking, instead of time limits, to achieve an occupancy rate of 85% during the busiest time of the day. At 85% occupancy, there will be spaces readily available for the next arriving customer.

What will the parking rates be?

SDOT is considering setting initial rates at \$0.50 per hour in the General Parking areas and \$1.00 per hour in Premium Parking areas. This is equivalent to \$5.00 and \$10.00, respectively, for an all day stay of 10 hours.

What is the difference between pay-and-display and pay-by-space?

SDOT is proposing to install two different types of pay stations along the corridor. The pay-and-display system is like the pay stations elsewhere in the city; the machines print a receipt for display in the vehicle window. The pay-by-space system, similar to parking lots throughout Seattle, requires users to enter their space number when paying at the pay station, but they do not need to display a receipt.

What hours would paid parking be in effect?

Similar to other areas of the city, paid parking hours are proposed to be 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday through Saturday.

When will the plan be implemented?

After taking community comments into consideration, SDOT will report back via the project website and a mailing by August 2006. Implementation of the plan will occur this fall.

Can existing employees be exempt from parking fees?

The City manages parking in the public right-of-way for the good of the general public. The City is prohibited from designating spaces for specific commercial entities and from exempting particular user groups (except residents) from the requirement to pay to park.

How will the parking needs of houseboat owners be addressed?

SDOT will designate the unpaved parking area at the north end of the corridor as a Residential Parking Zone (RPZ) for use only by those with a Westlake RPZ or Guest permit. In addition, those with Westlake RPZ permits will be allowed to park in any Westlake General Parking Area space without additional cost.

What will the hours be for the north end RPZ-only area?

SDOT is currently proposing that the north-end RPZ be in effect 24 hours, 7-days-per-week, and will work with residents to set RPZ hours that best meet their needs.

What if I'm a liveaboard?

Under current City ordinance, a maximum of 10% of marina slips may be used for liveaboards. SDOT will make RPZ permits available to eligible liveaboard residents up to a maximum of 10% of slips per marina. Those who qualify will be eligible to park either in the RPZ-only area at the north end of the corridor, or in any General Parking Area space at no additional cost.

How much does an RPZ permit cost, how many can I get, and what about my guests?

RPZ permits are \$35 per two-year permit cycle (households may purchase one permit for each vehicle owned). One guest permit (\$15) is allowed per household. Applicants must show proof of residency and a copy of current Washington State Vehicle Registration.